

THE GREAT PARADOX

When more public transport is need of the hour, their numbers decline



YEAR-WISE COMPARISON OF REGISTERED VEHICLES

VEHICLES	2020		TILL AUG 2021	
	Country	Dhaka	Country	Dhaka
Bus	2,395	1,792	1,075	849
Minibus	620	133	220	97
Private Car	12,403	11,150	9,470	8,396
Motorcycle	311,016	78,551	198,301	54,139
Microbus	2,779	2,407	2,457	2,206

SOURCE: BRTA

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

When experts are advocating for a planned public transport system to ease traffic congestion and ensure road safety, the number of buses and minibuses are actually declining in the city.

Their numbers saw a sharp decline in Dhaka as well as other parts of the country in the last one and half years, intensifying people's suffering amid the pandemic.

Although the number of private

cars and micro-buses have gradually declined over the last three years, the number of such vehicles operating on roads is still too high, said experts.

In fact, their numbers increased again this year, according to Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) data.

"When developed countries are moving for public transport-oriented development, we are moving towards more private cars and motorcycles due to lack of proper planning," said Prof Hadiuzzaman, director of Accident

Research Institute at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

It is amid this paradoxical situation that the country is going to observe World Car Free Day tomorrow -- a day which aims to discourage the use of private cars and encourage cycling, walking or using public transport instead.

The day has been observed in Europe since the 1970s and in Bangladesh since 2006.

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AS IF THINGS CAN'T WAIT FOR A FEW MINUTES... It's common for parents to huddle around school exits after class hours. At the capital's Dhanmondi Government Boys' High School, authorities simply can't separate the parents, despite their best attempts. This is stressful for students as it is, and amid the pandemic, it's a legitimate public health concern. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

EC capable enough to hold fair polls

Says info minister

UNB, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said Bangladesh needs no assistance from the United Nations (UN) to arrange elections since the country's Election Commission (EC) is capable enough to hold fair and transparent polls.

"The Election Commission of Bangladesh is very strong, and I don't think it needs anyone's help to hold elections," he said.

The minister came up with the remarks at a programme of Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum (BSRF) as journalists sought his reaction to UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Mia Seppo's comment on the UN's assistance for holding elections in Bangladesh.



Stating that the EC has already conducted many elections in Bangladesh in a very fair and transparent manner, the minister said Bangladesh is not Somalia or Ethiopia that it needs the UN's help to hold elections.

He, however, said it is completely a different issue if anyone wants to observe elections in Bangladesh. "But the Election Commission does not need any assistance to conduct elections."

On Sunday, Mia Seppo said the UN will provide electoral assistance to Bangladesh only if there is any request on that particular front.

Responding to questions at "DCAB Talk" at the Foreign Service Academy, she also said, "The UN

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It's not functioning properly: GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said that the Election Commission is either not working properly or it cannot work properly.

"The Election Commission has many powers as a constitutional body, but its power is not visible to the common people," said GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition.

He said this while speaking at a programme at the JP chief's office at the capital's Banani.

The JP chief alleged that along with the ruling party members, a section of government officials is often involved in influencing the election.

"Therefore the local body elections are not being held in a competitive manner," he further alleged.

Besides, GM Quader said,



candidates from the opposition ideology cannot stay in the election field due to filing of cases against them, along with intimidation.

Despite this, he said, Jatiya Party will take part in every local government elections. The party is being organised and reaching out to people through the elections, he added.

GM Quader also said participants of his party who are taking part in different elections were given instruction to fight till the end of every polls.

"Those who cannot fight ignoring fear and greed are not needed in Jatiya Party. Because, the door of Jatiya Party is open for the new generation," he also said.

In this context, he added that there is no such place in the ruling Awami League. No one can join

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An enemy of our own making

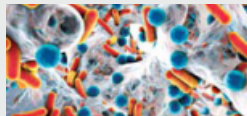
47pc children in port city resistant to antibiotics, finds study

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cg

The medicines we are self-prescribing in our efforts to fight off illnesses are actually creating stronger and deadlier germs.

A recent research confirms that overuse and misuse of antibiotics are causing antibiotic resistance in people and creating uncertainties regarding the effectiveness of future treatments.

As many as 47 percent of newborns and children in Chattogram have been infected by at least three types of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms, pathogens that cannot be fought off by drugs, said researchers.



STUDY AT A GLANCE

47pc of newborns, children infected by at least 3 types of antibiotic-resistant germs

40pc of those aged 15 and above resistant to at least 3 antibiotics

70pc of people resistant to at least 1 antibiotic

KEY REASONS

Getting infected by resistant pathogens at hospitals

Resistance passed down from mother to neonate

Irrational use of antibiotics

Consuming dairy, poultry products laced with antibiotics

They conducted a study on 1,000 patients in two hospitals in Chattogram over a period of two years -- from 2018 to 2020 -- and found increasing ineffectiveness of antibiotics among adolescents and youths.

"Among the patients monitored in the research, around 50 percent were children. Of them, more than 40 percent were antibiotic resistant," said one of the researchers, Dr Wazir Ahmed, head of neonatal ICU at Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital.

The physician feared that treatment of children will be almost impossible in the

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Woman held over killing of husband

Beaten with a racquet till it broke, she stabbed him with it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have arrested a woman on charge of killing her husband in Dhaka's Khilgaon area yesterday morning.

The deceased is Abdur Rahman (40), employee of a shop selling poultry in the area.

Farukul Alam, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said the couple used to live with their three children at a flat in East Goran area.

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Appointment of 1,650 agri officers 'legal'

SC upholds HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court verdict that declared "legal" the appointments of 1,650 sub-assistant agriculture officers at the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

The Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain dismissed a petition filed by the writ petitioners, seeking stay on the HC verdict.

Additional Attorney General SK Md Morshed told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the 1,650 qualified

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HC seeks info on death-row convicts, condemned cells

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought detailed information about death-row convicts and condemned cells in prisons across the country.

The court asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to communicate with the inspector general of prisons to provide information on how many death-row convicts are currently in condemned cells, the number of those cells and the facilities provided there on October 31.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order during hearing of a writ petition, challenging the legality of keeping death-row convicts in condemned cells before their cases are finally disposed of by the Appellate Division.

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Why no guideline for recruitment thru outsourcing

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to formulate a guideline for recruiting manpower through outsourcing process.

Secretaries to the ministries of public administration, and women and children affairs were made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule following a writ petition seeking necessary directives.

Fifty-four people including a Manik

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275 hospitalised with dengue

LGRD minister says situation may improve in a month



Death toll 59

13 died in Sept so far

34 in Aug, 12 in July

275 more hospitalised yesterday

Total infected 15,976

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 275 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday. Of them, 64 are from outside Dhaka.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with the new cases, 5,345 have been diagnosed during the current month, out of 15,976 infected this year.

Of the 15,976 infected, 1,842 are from outside Dhaka. At least 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, while 43 were infected in May, according to DGHS.

As per DGHS data, 59 people have died of dengue this year. All of them succumbed to the disease in July, August and September. Twelve people died in July, 34 in August, and 13 in September so far.

Among the deaths, 54 have died in Dhaka division, two each in Chattogram and Khulna, and one in Rajshahi division.

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Parked buses and lagunas have choked this road near the capital's Fulbaria intersection. The scene remains the same throughout the day, leaving little space for other vehicles to go through. Authorities do not seem to mind, as the place has been a glorified parking spot for a long time. Amid the chaos, pedestrians make best of the situation by walking on the narrow gap left in the middle by the lines of human hauliers on both sides. These photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



In loving memory



1951-2021

On 15 September 2021, our father, Dr Osman Haider Chowdhury, was called home to be with Allah. His generosity, kindness, humour and jovial personality will be missed by the many lives that he touched. He was our best friend and biggest supporter; he was a loving husband to our mother, Eva. His memory will be forever cherished in our hearts. May Allah bless his soul and take care of him on his new journey.

"Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because the dawn has come" - Rabindranath Tagore

Farhana & Ekram